

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY

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Governor Abbott Appoints Five to Texas Juvenile Justice Board

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Pama Hencerling to the Texas Juvenile Justice Board for a term set to expire February 1, 2017 and appointed Edeska Barnes, Jr., Lisa Jarrett, Candy Noble and Wes Ritchey for terms set to expire February 1, 2021. The board is charged with developing and implementing rules to govern the department, executive director and staff, and to establish the mission and set goals for the department to emphasize keeping youth in home communities while balancing rehabilitative needs with public safety.

Pama Hencerling of Victoria is the chief juvenile probation officer of Victoria and Goliad Counties. She is past president of the Texas Institute on Children and Youth and a member of the Central Texas Chiefs Association, Texas Probation Association and the Juvenile Justice Associate of Texas. Hencerling received a Bachelor of Science from Sam Houston State University.

Edeska Barnes, Jr. of Jasper is the chief juvenile probation officer for the First Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department. He is on the board of directors for the Texas Probation Association, a member of Deep East Texas Council of Government and a facilitator for the New Chiefs Development Program for Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University. Barnes received a Bachelor of Science from Lamar University.

Lisa Jarrett of San Antonio is Judge of the 436th District Court. She is a member of Friends of Communities in Schools, co-chair of the Community Justice Project and fellow of the San Antonio Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. Jarrett received a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center.

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A Message From the Director



David Reilly

Happy new year to each of you. The 85th Legislative Session has begun and lawmakers have already begun meeting on a number of priority items. In addition to juvenile justice issues that are important to us all, a primary focus will be on the state's budget. Recent estimates by the Comptroller have revealed that lawmakers will have approximately \$104.87 billion of revenue available for state services during the next biennium, or about \$3 billion less than the previous biennium. We should see the introduced state-wide budget very soon and, while it is informative, it is only a starting point. Although the budget will be tight, I continue to be optimistic in the Legislature's support of TJJJ, our county probation partners and for our future. The process is long and we will not know the outcome for quite some time.

I am pleased to welcome new board members to TJJJ's

leadership. At the same time, we will certainly feel the loss of four very special former members whose terms have expired – Jane King, Dr. Rene Olvera, Laura Parker and Calvin Stephens. These four have been a part of the TJJJ board since the agency's creation in 2011. They served during a time of consolidation and transition and have provided guidance, oversight, passion and leadership. Their work has often been arduous and unrecognized by those outside the juvenile justice system. Through their efforts, TJJJ has implemented numerous improvements and has achieved a greater stability. On behalf of the agency's staff, please accept my sincere thanks for your service to TJJJ and the youth of our state.

Each January, TJJJ joins with the rest of our nation in celebrating National Mentoring Month. Mentors have a profound and

transformative role in the lives of each young person they assist. TJJJ's mentors work with youth who are often very difficult to reach. This month, 125 youth are matched with mentors, approximately 7 percent of our total youth population. Since FY 2014, 815 youth have been matched with a mentor with 369 youth having a mentor match lasting 180 days or more. Youth with long-term mentor matches have significantly better outcomes than their peers without mentors, with lower recidivism rates and great academic achievement. TJJJ is especially grateful to all our mentors and we are seeking additional fund to help us bolster our mentorship program. It is also rewarding to see that many of our county partners across the state, from Angelina to Cameron to Dallas to Williamson and many more, have mentor programs that enrich their youth and programs.



Governor Abbott Appoints Five To Texas Juvenile Justice Board (con't)

Candy Noble of Lucas previously served on the Collin County Child Protective Services Board. She volunteers as the co-chair the Alumni Committee on the Hardin-Simons University Board of Development. Noble received a Bachelor of Education from Hardin-Simons University.

Wes Ritchey of Dalhart is the county judge of Dallam County. He is a member of the Texas Association of Counties and the Panhandle County Judge & Commissioners Association and volunteers for the Dallam County 4-H and the Dalhart Area Child Care Center as Board President. Ritchey received a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University.



TJJD Advisory Council's Standards Committee – Creation, Purpose, and Accomplishments

By Doug Vance, PhD
Chair, TJJDD Advisory Council

The TJJD Advisory Council has for a number of years maintained several standing committees charged with addressing a specific area of importance to the field of juvenile justice. These committees focus on standards of care, performance measures, mental health, probation funding, and regionalization. For this article I wish to provide a general overview of the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee was formally created on May 1, 2012 at a regular meeting of the TJJD Advisory Council. At that time the Advisory Council deemed it a top priority to initiate a systematic review of certain administrative rules (standards of care) impacting juvenile probation departments. After establishing the committee,

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Brazos County Chief Doug Vance was appointed Committee Chair and Cass County Chief Philip Hayes as Vice-Chair.

In addition to Advisory Council membership on the committee it was deemed prudent to solicit additional representation from juvenile justice professionals from across the state. As such, membership on the committee soon expanded to include representation from the following organizations and or entities:

- Juvenile Probation Regional Chiefs Associations
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- TJJD Advisory Council
- Texas Juvenile Detention Association
- Juvenile Justice Association of Texas
- Texas Probation Association
- Subject Matter Experts

TJJD Advisory Council's Standards Committee – Creation, Purpose, and Accomplishments (con't)

To ensure the best chance for success the Standards Committee implemented a very distinct and uniquely strategic method of operation as outlined below:

- Standards Committee Receives an Assignment
- Chair Secures Committee Membership from Across the State
- Project Parameters are Established
- Committee Develops a Plan of Action
 - Goals
 - Guiding Principles
 - Time-Lines
 - Methodology
 - Independent Research
 - Homework Assignments
- Committee Meetings Objectives:
 - Create Atmosphere that Encourages Input & Debate
 - Provide for a Thorough Vetting Process
 - Keep Accurate Meeting Drafts
 - Solicit On-Going Feedback
 - Stay-on-Task
- Seek TJJD Board Approval
- Recommend an Effective Date
- Provide State-Wide Training

Since 2012 the Standards Committee has been hard at work reviewing and revising multiple chapters of the Texas Administrative Code. Following is a list of projects completed by the Standards Committee.

- 2012 Elimination of the TAC 343 Compliance Resource Manual
- 2012 Creation of the TAC 343 Addendum
- 2012 Creation of Specific TJJD Auditing Procedures
- 2012 Revision of TAC 343 Mental Health Rules
- 2013 Creation of TAC 355 – Standards for Non-Secure Facilities
- 2014 Comprehensive Revision of TAC 343 - Secure Pre & Post-Adjudication Facilities
- 2014 Major Revision to How Seclusion is Administered in Texas Juvenile Detention.

2015 Revision of TAC 341 with Special Emphasis on Case Management.

2016 Revision of TAC 344 – Employment, Certification, & Training.

Each of these projects was very difficult and required extensive independent research as well as multiple meetings filled with debate and healthy discussion before completion was secured. If not for the dedication of a small group of juvenile justice professionals, these projects would have been impossible to undertake or complete.

The following list of individuals participated in one or more standards committee projects, either as a committee member, or as a subject matter expert. Their unselfish efforts will for many years to come provide the framework for the rules of engagement in juvenile probation as well as specify the modus operandi for how juvenile probation should operate. Finally, their work provides a seminal benchmark of excellence, for posterity's sake, and will forever impact the scope, direction, and course of the Texas Juvenile Probation System.

Kristy Almager, Denise Askea, Josh Bauremiester, Linda Brooke, Darryl Beatty, Ed Cockrell, Jamie Coronado, Nekandra Coulter, Gerald Crain, Karol Davidson, Terri Dollar, Dr. Nicole Dorsey PhD, Kevin Dubose, Neil Edins, Lupita Fuentes, Dr. Jennifer Farnum. EdD, Scott Friedman, Richard Garza, Barry Gilbert, Carols Gonzales, Bruce Gusler, Kavita Gupta, Forrest Hanna, Darryl Harrison, Philip Hayes, Tom Hough, Bryan Jones, Susan Humphrey, Deborah James, Aris Johnson, Upendra Katrangadda, Monica Kelly, Ashley Kintzer, Diane Laffoon, David Lenington, Kathryn Lewis, Ron Lewis, Vicki Line, Sal Lopez, Virginia Martinez, Reba Moore, Jesse Murillo, Diana Norris, Susan Orendac, Dr. Delbert Price PhD, Leah Probst, Dr. Diana Quintana PhD, Steve Roman, Bryant Sears, Lou Serrano, Kaci Singer, James Smith, Chet Thomas, Laura Torres, Dr. Doug Vance PhD, Jim Vines, James Williams, Ross Worley.

Volunteers Honored During National Mentoring Month

January is NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH and TJJD would like to express deep appreciation to each Mentor! Throughout the month, the agency has shared a variety of stories, training/webinar invitations, and video links that underscore the critical role mentors play in the lives of TJJD youth. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a TJJD mentor, please contact Tammy Holland at 512-490-7090.



Scott Bolsins: The Story of a Reluctant Mentor

I have always had a place in my heart for youth and have served as a volunteer coach on several sports teams. When I was approached by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department about working with a 10-year-old boy who was serving a possible 15-year incarceration, I would like to say I jumped at the chance; however, I hesitated because I was anxious about working with a child who was incarcerated. I tried to reason away that I would have little impact on someone who had committed an offense that

resulted in such a lengthy sentence. Nothing could have been further than the truth.

My initial meeting was not what I had anticipated. I was introduced to a child who was polite, however shy. He was no different from any other boy I had coached, with the exception that he desperately needed someone to care about him. We played games and he cheated several times to ensure himself that I would win. When I asked him why, he said he wanted to make sure I came back. It broke my heart.

After a few months I learned that he was making less than average grades and it was obvious that he had no concept of a life outside of the justice system. We worked on his confidence and I started to get him to dream again of what his life would look like if he could change things. His grades improved to an A-average as he set goals to graduate, not only from high school, but to earn a college degree. Within a year, the introverted child who was

unable to look me in the eye or complete a sentence was laughing, talking nonstop and planning to earn a degree as a graphic artist. He picked up the passion for reading, and was reading books that were several grade levels above his age.

I have worked with him for three years and I am proud of the young man that he has become. He is now living with a foster family in my hometown and is like any other awkward teenage boy you would see at the mall or playing with friends. His eyes are now filled with hope instead of the undeniable pain I saw during our first visit.

Looking back, my initial thought was that I had very little to offer and I have come to realize that I had everything he needed. I didn't have to have profound advice or even all the right answers; all he needed was a little of my time and to know that someone cared. It can make a difference that is impossible to measure, as this experience has changed us both.

Mart Complex Adds Violent Offender Program

When the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program came to the Mart campus and it was decided the Violent Offender Program would be part of the first wave PBIS dorm, the treatment team was prepared. This program is based on the highly successful and acclaimed Capital and Serious Violent Offender Program at Giddings, and

incorporates much of the proven program into a campus-based treatment program for youth.

The dorm was extremely clean and organized, positive posters were everywhere, groups were taking place and program was followed to the letter. Incentives for good behavior motivated youth to perform and have a

positive outlook towards the future. The program is not easy and changing internal culture and personal values is a difficult accomplishment but, with the help of the team, the dorm managed to be the star of Mart Complex and a model dorm.

The dedicated professionals managing the program include front line JCOs, JCO Supervisor Monica Coward, Case manager Alberta Riptoe, Dorm Supervisor Raquel Hightower and Program Supervisor Ana Matei. This team works around the clock to maintain and improve the program, the culture, and the untapped potential of the treatment. Now, since PBIS is officially part of the VOP, the entire team is thriving to be better, more specialized, have organized training for staff, have better motivation and incentive for good behavior and prepare youths to break the negative boundaries and become even stronger.



The VOP dorm mural, which was created by all the VOP youth participants.

Fort Worth Parole Youth and Families Receive Holiday Baskets

The Fort Worth Resource Council for Youth (FWRCY), the Salvation Army and One Heart Project helped make Christmas brighter for parole youth and their families in the Northern District of Tarrant County and Fort Worth.

Thanks to their generosity, Fort Worth Parole Officers delivered Christmas baskets to 15 families and gave 35 youth fan and goody bags. Fort Worth Parole Staff Vickie Griffin was instrumental in making sure the baskets were well stocked.

Parole Officers Natasha Johnson, Billy Branch and Jeffrey Manuel, along with their supervisor Diana

Goodwin and Vickie Griffin, made home visits that included dropping off a basket that contained a ham, vegetables, cake mix and icing, instant mashed potatoes and more food for the holiday meal.

Parole youth picked up their bags when they saw their Parole Officer – either at the office or at home, work or school. The youth fan and goody bags contained socks, gloves, a cap, body wash, shampoo snacks and other goodies.

The families and youth were very appreciative and thankful.

A large, brightly lit Christmas tree stands as the centerpiece in a hall. It is densely decorated with warm white lights and a variety of ornaments, including gold, silver, and red baubles, as well as larger decorative items. The tree is set on a white, snow-like base. The background shows a dark wooden wall and a doorway, with a warm, yellowish light illuminating the scene.

TJJD takes special pride knowing that the Tree of Angels ceremony started through the creativity of our own Kristy Almager's mother, Verna Lee Carr, who serves as Executive Director of People Against Violent Crime. Since Ms. Carr held the first event in 1991, it has grown into an annual ritual throughout much of Texas, nationally and internationally.

Students and staff alike are looking forward to the next worship event and other exciting happenings on campus.



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Swine Project Helps Nudge Youth In the Right Direction (con't)

And if they're busy working with a pig project and putting in all this time and effort, they'll think twice about the destructive decisions that come their way.

The Dream Team program provides everything for the members, at no cost to them or their families, Ragland explained, which is another reason why each class of Dream Teamers is set at nine. Ragland finds and purchases the project pigs for the Dream Teamers just like he does for traditional 4-H members who ask him. All of the feed, veterinary care as well as housing and their 4-H membership fee are covered for the Dream Team members too. Funding comes from private sources and in part from the sale of the pigs after the county fair.

"The ultimate goal is that we hope that the kiddo's pig is quality enough to make the premium sale at our county show," Ragland said. "It doesn't always happen because our county show rules say only the top 75 percent of each class is eligible for the premium sale." If a Dream Teamer's pig doesn't happen to make the sale, there is a group of angel supporters in the county who will add on dollars to that youngster's pig, he explained. It's not a lot, but it is a small premium for the kids above market price.

That matters because if the Dream Team participant's pig brings a gross amount of \$500 or more, then the money is divided into a 10-10-80 split, Ragland said.

"So, whatever the gross dollars are for that kiddo, we give them 10 percent of that right up front because we feel like they need some immediate reward for their effort," Ragland said. "Then 10 percent goes back into the Dream Team program to support future participants. Then

the remaining 80 percent goes into an individual scholarship fund for that particular kiddo that they don't receive until they graduate high school. It's an incentive for this group because these at-risk kids tend to have high drop-out rates. We want to keep them in school until they graduate at least."

Since 2011 the Dream Team has nudged 31 of Ragland's "kiddos" toward a better path. For the youth and their families, the Dream Team is an opportunity to come together as a family through the project work.

"I thought it would be fun," said Brooke Carrithers, one of the Dream Team participants who came out to the barn to speak on behalf of the program. "I love animals, and my mom showed pigs when she was in 4-H."

Brooke's mom, Charlyn Carrithers, said she's seen the blossoming of her daughter's confidence through the program.

"She's doing so awesome, I'm so proud of her," Charlyn said. "We get up at 5:30 a.m. to feed, then she's off to school, then we come back out here around 4:30 p.m. and we're here until 6 or 7:30 p.m. It's just me and her, so it's a real blessing to have this." And the program works some magic on the parents as well. Charlyn uses her past showing knowledge to help the other kids when they need it. She also sees her and her daughter becoming closer.

"It's a blessing to these kids to have one chance to do this," she said. "At least the kids have a chance to see how to raise an animal, get that responsibility and that applies beyond that to other areas."

Kent David, father of Dream Teamer Claire David, echoed those sentiments.

"This is the biggest commitment she's ever done," he said. And the Dream Team project has inspired Claire to get further involved in other 4-H project work. It challenges her and that's good for her, he added.

Ragland said the benefits even transfer over into the traditional 4-H members who house their pigs out at the same barn. They learn not every kid in every family has the same opportunities, and some find their own leadership lessons in helping the Dream Teamers with their project learning.

There was no template for the Dream Team committee to follow when they developed the program, Ragland said.

"You have to surround yourself with a group of people passionate about the idea," he said. "We had so many committee meetings trying to develop the program, our bylaws and guidelines. Then we had to become a 501(c)(3) for fundraising. The best advice I would give is to have a goal, then surround yourself with supporters who are passionate about the same idea you have." Without the Randall County Commissioners and the court, a lot of the things we have in place today wouldn't be possible, he added. They raised the funding for the facility and are some of the biggest, most vocal cheerleaders of the Dream Team in the county.

"Do we think we can save them all?" Ragland asked. "No. We know that going in. But if we just save a few, then the program, the funding, the time, the effort, the support money is all worth it if we can keep them out of trouble."

It's a nudge in the right direction for kiddos who need it.



SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Tomlinson
Director of Juvenile Services/Chief
Juvenile Probation Officer
 Johnson and Somervell Counties

What led you to your career in juvenile justice?

I would say God did. As a child my father was an attorney, and a district attorney for part of my life. I enjoyed being in the courtroom with him and talking to him about cases. I knew I wanted to be in the courtroom in some form. I was originally hoping to go to law school, but was a single mom at the time. I continued my CJ course work and when I took my first juvenile justice class at University of Texas in El Paso, I was hooked. I knew then that I wanted to work with kids.

What types of facilities do you operate?

I do not currently operate any facility. However in the past, I operated the Juvenile Detention Facility in Grayson County. Currently in Johnson County we do not have our own facility and have to contract for beds.

What programs do you feel have proven most successful?

I really like the Youth Advocate Program. We have contracted with them for several years now and I do feel our kids get a lot from the mentors assigned to them. I also like a meeting that started years ago with CPS and Adult Probation. We meet monthly to discuss the many cases we have in common. It has built positive relationships with the

different agencies and ultimately helped the families and kids.

What do you see as the biggest challenges for juvenile justice in Texas?

Being soaked up into a “TYC” minded system. What I mean by that is when the agencies consolidated, TJPC or probation was supposed to be at the forefront. It seems every year as the agency continues that probation is being pushed further and further back and putting more and more on the counties. A term emerged in the last legislative session of “basic probation” and I wanted a definition of what that meant. That is the most difficult thing to do with the size of counties, the services offered or not offered. I never want to be offering “basic” anything to kids who need more.

Are there any changes that you are considering in your county?

Well, not now with retirement, but I hope and pray that services to youth at the local level will be priority to whoever takes my place.

What do you want others to know about your department?

I have the best staff in the world!! They care, period! They care about kids and families that no one else does. They want the best for each child and family and they want each child to be successful. We are fairly

small with only about 20 people total, but we are MIGHTY! We also do something that I am especially proud of - we pray for each other, families, kids, or anyone else at each staff meeting.

How will you spend your time once you retire?

Well, not exactly sure yet. Going to take a little down time first to reflect. Then I will attempt selling real estate. I got my license earlier this year and wanted to try it. Now I will have that opportunity.

What has been the best part of your job?

My Juvenile Board, my staff and seeing even the small successes in the kids we serve.

What advice would you give to a young new juvenile justice professional?

Don't expect big money, and only expect small rewards. Hang onto those small rewards, they will keep you on track. Show respect to everyone you meet. Don't judge just work with them. Find the child inside the kid sitting in front of you – don't just look at the offense – they deserve more than that. Remember what it was like to be a child yourself. If you don't remember, just ask your parents – they are more than willing to share.

The Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center has partnered with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra to present "CHAMBER FOR THE CHALLENGED." The program is made possible by a 2016-2017 grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, executed by the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra (LSO) Education Program and implemented at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center (LCJJC).

various individual instruments assembled into a group, to mirror social structures; that each instrument contributes to a harmonious sound illustrates how individuals form our larger society. Demonstration of these concepts forms associations between the performances and



types of social and emotional rehabilitation, since all members of the audience have experienced some sort of societal exclusion and isolation.

"As a former musician I have enjoyed watching the juveniles interact with the ensembles both individually and as a group" said Carter. "During the Q&A periods the juveniles are allowed to ask questions and provide feedback such as how the music affects their current moods and emotions."

On December 10, 2016, Schaeffer House held its annual Christmas event. The event was sponsored by the Community Resource Council (CRC). Several special guests attended and spoke to the youth and families. The CRC provided a Christmas meal for all that were in attendance. The youth received gifts and sang Christmas carols. Overall it was a good day for the youth, families, volunteers and staff.



A group of people are seated in a room, facing a man who appears to be giving a presentation. The room is decorated for Christmas, featuring a large, decorated Christmas tree on the left and several white star-shaped decorations hanging from the ceiling. The room has a carpeted floor and fluorescent lighting. In the background, there are bookshelves, a bulletin board, and a door. The people are seated on dark-colored chairs and benches. The man at the front is standing and speaking to the group.

Bikers For Christ volunteers work closely with youth at Evins Regional Juvenile Center during a Christian Concert in October 2016. More than 50 youth were able to attend and enjoy great Christian music, guest speakers and a Chick Fil A meal. The concert is sponsored twice a year by "We Are One in Spirit" Ministries out of Edinburg, Texas.



The image shows the exterior of Music Elementary School. The building is constructed of red brick with a gabled roof. A large, circular window with a brick border is centered on the upper part of the facade. Below the window, three black, curved light fixtures are mounted on the brick wall. The words "MUSIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" are displayed in large, dark, block letters across the lower part of the brick wall. To the left of the building, a tall flagpole holds the American flag and a blue flag with a white emblem. The sky is clear and blue.

The response has been highly gratifying to McBee leadership, especially since the school had no active mentors to work with students previously. The elementary school has achieved distinction designations from the Texas Education Agency, and works with youth facing significant challenges. More than 95 percent of the student body is economically disadvantaged and nearly 75 percent are English language learners. Mentors commit to work with a youth for an academic year, but have the option of continuing in a mentorship role with a youth for future years.

Cottrell House Giving with Purpose



Ornaments designed for children at Scottish Rites Hospital by Cottrell House youth

Giving to others to create smiles was the purpose of youth at Cottrell House making Christmas ornaments to donate to the children at Scottish Rite Hospital. The youth at Cottrell House wanted to make Christmas special for young children that were unable to spend Christmas at home. Volunteer Shellita Garrett was excited to work with youth to help them design special Christmas ornaments to put smiles on the faces of children. When other volunteers heard about the youth plans of donating ornaments, they were excited to assist. Shellita supplied paints, glitter, and clear Christmas ornaments. The youth supplied the creativity and designs for each ornament. Once all the ornaments were completed, the Iron Guardians took the ornaments to the Scottish Rite Hospital so that the children could smile. Cottrell House youth did more than just create ornaments for children; they learned that working together for a greater good is powerful. They had so much fun that they wanted to create more exciting things. Shellita came back a second time to allow youth to use their creativity to create whatever they felt. The youth created bird houses using popsicle sticks.

Volunteer D’Juan McDuffie was amazed that Cottrell youth wanted to give smiles to children that could not spend Christmas at home. This amazed him because youth at Cottrell were also not able to spend Christmas at home, but yet they wanted to give smiles to someone else. D’Juan wanted to help the youth provide a gift for their family members. He wanted the gift to be handmade by the youth so that the gift would truly have meaning. He engaged youth in making homemade hand scrubs using salt, and essential oils. Youth were excited, and made several different



The Christmas gifts that DYRAC provided as individual gifts as well as house gifts

scented hand scrubs for their family members. The youth packaged the hand scrubs with bows to prepare them for their family members.

The Dallas Youth Resource & Advisory Council (DYRAC) knew that youth could not be home. The members of DYRAC gave donations of food, clothing, and hygiene products to youth Cottrell House. They also purchased all new board games for the entire house. DYRAC members served nachos and dessert as well as watched Christmas movies with the youth. They even provided toys for youth

that have small children of their own so that they could give the toys as gifts.

All Gods People provided a home cooked Christmas meal for youth and their family members. Everyone enjoyed turkey, hams, green beans, potatoes, dressing, dessert and much more. Volunteers enjoyed their time with youth and showed them that Christmas is about caring for others. Volunteer Palmer Reed was known for spending time with youth. He mentored many youth, gave many donations, taught many bible study sessions with youth and participated in countless celebrations with youth at Cottrell House. Palmer passed away this year. Palmer was celebrated during the Christmas dinner for all his good works. He was a role model for every youth that he came in contact with. A plaque will hang at Cottrell House honoring Palmer Reed.

Christmas is more than receiving gifts. It is about placing smiles on the face of others, giving from the heart, and celebrating the life of those who are special to each of us. Youth at Cottrell House experienced all of this and more because of volunteers.



Youth created this bird house using popsicle sticks

TJJD Campuses Celebrate PBIS Incentive Day

Every six weeks, all TJJD education departments participate in a Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) incentive program which addresses the youth's individual ability to reach a set of identified expectations and behavior goals. This helps facilitate and shape behavior while building and reinforcing coping skills through targeted skill development. Overall, this offers the students directed practice, staff opportunity for modeling of pro-social skills, and positive reinforcement of targeted progress. The goal is to help youth reduce negative behavior while developing corresponding positive behaviors to build long-term, internalized changes in behavior. Below is a description of the PBIS Incentive Day held agency-wide on September 16, 2016.



Gainesville: PBIS is going strong at the Gainesville State School. The last incentive was the largest yet with 68 students participating. The teachers came in early and prepared a home cooked breakfast for the students that included

scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, waffles and fresh fruit. They enjoyed games, having free time in the gymnasium, playing pool, cards, dominoes and ping pong. The free day from school provided an opportunity for the students to have fellowship with their teachers and coaches without the pressure of school work. All the staff worked very hard to make this a meaningful experience and a great day for the students and PBIS...GO TORNADOES!!! *James Bateman: PBIS Coach*



McLennan II / MRTC:

A total of 78 students participated in sports activities

and a presentation by Ahmad Washington, founder of Movement Up, an organization to help mentor societal needs of at-risk children. Mr. Washington performed rap lyrics and incorporated his experiences as a youth. He related personal experiences such as growing up in an impoverished area of Houston that was surrounded by anger, abuse, drug abuse, and illegal drug distribution. Against all odds and misfortune, he rose to flourish in a successful athletic career while continuously striving to become a productive, contributing citizen. Students were overcome with emotion and moved to speak of their own

trials in life. Mr. Washington wrote a formula on the board and suggested to the students that the sum of life is predicated on experiences, plus choices. *Travis Boyd and Larrye Weaver: PBIS Coaches*



Giddings:

Lone Star
High School
South East
celebrated
its first PBIS
incentive
day of
the new

school year. Because youth met behavior and academic goals, youth were able to watch "Batman versus Superman" in the chapel and partook in eating donuts, kolaches and drinking orange juice. Due to the amazing participation from the youth, this incentive day goes down in the books as one of the largest and most memorable PBIS Incentive Days with a final count of 92 youth. The number of participants shows an increase in the number of youth taking responsibility for their behavior. The comradery shown between staff and youth was amazing and reinforced how PBIS is becoming part of campus culture. The staff at LSHS SE is dedicated to making sure each youth is afforded equal opportunities to do the right thing and make the right choices. *Tatrina Bailey: PBIS Coach*

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TJJD Campuses Celebrate PBIS Incentive Day (con't)



Ron Jackson had 42 students qualify for the first six weeks PBIS Incentive Day. All groups participated in a ropes course trolley activity involving long

boards with ropes connected to them. The object was for the groups to learn to work as a team and to afford the opportunities for leaders to emerge. All were able to practice and demonstrate leadership skills. Throughout the morning, each group spent time practicing with their groups. A leader from each group guided group members to step in a rhythmic, unison manner, first with their right foot followed by the left foot. At the end of the day, all the groups came together for a race across the court yard.

Everyone got involved including students, teachers, principals, JCO's and even Ron Jackson Superintendent joined in the fun! The Challenge & Courage group won the race. The whole distance of the race was about 20 yards. Kind-hearted teachers agreed to race the kids in the final race. Students also enjoyed watching an approved movie, eating popcorn, snacks, drinking soda, and playing basketball. *Tony Roberts: PBIS Coach*

Evins had an excellent PBIS Incentive Day! Prior to the actual day, the Dodgeball teams were eager to show their talents and competitiveness on the gym floor. Three teachers and staff were selected to play and guide the youth as Coaches on each team. Staff had drafted, met,

and mentally prepared the youths to unite as a team. Each team was united as one group, one team, and one family. All students met with the coaches in the early morning to prep them for the game. Officials gathered the youth to emphasize sportsmanship, teamwork, and importantly to have fun! Officials had to declare the yellow team winners to break a tie!! Both teams were taught how important it was to shake hands and congratulate each other on their hard work and dedication throughout the games. Both teams gathered for lunch and sat together to enjoy pizza and an ice cream cone. *Manny Ortiz: PBIS Coach*



Potter's House Fort Worth and Willoughby House Youth – a True Partnership

On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 Willoughby House youth attended a Breakfast with the Brother's from the Potter's House, Fort Worth, TX.

The Deacons and youth shared a breakfast but the men shared wisdom as well.

They encouraged the youth to consider entrepreneurship when they think about their future.

Several Deacons spoke from personal experience, about how they started and continue to maintain specific businesses

- ranging from construction and water removal/janitorial services to BBQ restaurants and barbershops.

One Deacon discussed being a published author and encouraged the youth to write their own story.

In addition, several discussed how they dealt with peer pressure and learned to NOT follow the crowd but think for themselves.

But this wasn't their first meeting. These men also provided Thanksgiving dinner for the youth as well.

The Potter's House Fort Worth, under the leadership of Pastor Patrick Winfield has become instrumental in helping the youth succeed. The Deacons plan a monthly meeting at the facility where they'll talk with the youth and provide inspiration and encouragement. The Iron Men, another outreach ministry plans to be mentoring the youth as well.

Potter's House Fort Worth and Willoughby House – houses united to help youth succeed.

A large group of students and staff members are gathered in a gymnasium for a pep assembly. In the foreground, four men wearing white shirts and blue jeans stand with their backs to the camera, facing a large crowd of students seated in bleachers. The students are dressed in various casual clothing, and the atmosphere appears energetic. The gymnasium has a yellow wall and a wooden floor.

Tamayo House celebrated Red Ribbon week in November by celebrating the hashtag #YOLO! "You only live once, live it drug free."

A photograph of a cardboard box filled with various food items. The most prominent item is a large, red and white patterned bag of Riverside Young Turkey. To its left is a box of Macaroni & Cheese. Several cans of soup and vegetables are visible at the bottom of the box. The box is open, and the items are packed closely together.



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY | JANUARY 2017

Ayres House and Volunteer Council for TX Youth in San Antonio received a special gift on the eve of its annual Christmas dinner for the youth and staff. New volunteer Karen Grady, inspired from her past six months of volunteering at the halfway house, shared her experience with her friends. These good-hearted friends in turn provided two donations from Stone Oak Rotary and Cheryl Armstrong. The donations, valued at \$1,000, helped provide Christmas gifts for youth at Ayres house.



Volunteer Karen Grady poses with Santa prior to the Ayres House Christmas dinner.



Volunteer Johnny Cuellar helps serve Ayres House youth and staff at the Christmas dinner.

A resolution was filed in the Texas House of Representatives in December designating January 24, 2017, as Juvenile Justice Professional Day in Texas. HR 53, filed by Representative James White of District 19 in East Texas, recognizes the valuable and often difficult work performed daily by more than 10,000 juvenile justice professionals at the county and state level throughout Texas.

handling 100 percent of the referrals received into the juvenile justice system each year and providing ongoing



officers, medical and special service providers provide supervision and support to nearly 1,700 youth each year.

As noted in HR 53, “Through their hard work and expertise, juvenile justice professionals make a positive difference in the lives of at-risk youth and help maintain the security of the citizens of Texas, and their contributions are indeed deserving of recognition.”

Juvenile Justice Professional Day, January 24, 2017, recognizes the efforts of these individuals and the positive difference they make in the lives of at-risk youth.

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since September 2016. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

September 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa M. Ellison	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Sidney A. Cavanaugh	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Brigido Maldonado	<i>Evins</i>
Charlotte E. Artley	<i>Gainesville</i>
James W. Bateman	<i>Gainesville</i>
Robert E. French	<i>Giddings</i>
Donna J. Allen	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Jesse M. Watkins	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Audra Gude	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Terry L. Thomas	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Steven J. Reaves	<i>Austin-Office of Inspector General</i>
Keith A. Long	<i>Gainesville</i>
George J. Gould	<i>Gainesville</i>
Cora H. Bennett	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Ruby L. Shaw	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Violet A. Scott	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Joseph D. Young	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Sonya D. Gulley	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Dan E. King	<i>Ron Jackson O&A</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

William A. Walk	<i>Austin-Business Ops & Contracts</i>
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October 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Jamyen J. Robinson-Hall	<i>Austin-Office of Internal Audit</i>
Heidi L. Hess	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Eunice C. Robertson	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Theresa A. Montgomery	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Nicole L. Weatherspoon-Hoo	<i>OIG Field</i>
Efrain Garcia	<i>Region 3 South</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Jocelyn R. Lewis	<i>Austin-Research & Planning</i>
Lucinda Garcia	<i>Evins</i>
Edelmira Balderas	<i>Evins</i>
Carolyn N. Reed	<i>Giddings</i>
Annie O. Girard	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Mary S. Baller	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Doris M. Lee	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Tatania M. Hooks	<i>McLennan RTC</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Clayton K. Heald	<i>Austin-IT Governance</i>
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Lori D. Harris	<i>Austin-Release Review Panel</i>
Ricardo R. Vela	<i>Ayres HWH</i>
Rodney W. Dean	<i>Brownwood HWH</i>
Curtis T. Truesdale	<i>Giddings</i>
Troy L. Brown	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Kristy M. Almager	<i>Austin-JJTA</i>
Suzanne Peschke	<i>Giddings</i>
Marilyn J. Francis	<i>Giddings</i>
Yuekore D. Grayson	<i>Willoughby HWH</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Belinda Lanfranco	<i>Evins</i>
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THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Donnie F. Weakly	<i>OIG Field</i>
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THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Ricardo Leal	<i>Region 3 South</i>
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Employees Receiving Tenure Awards (con't)

November 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathryn R. Gray *Austin-Office of
General Counsel*

Justin D. Adams *Austin-
Administrative
Investigations*

Samuel L. Matos *Evins*Benjamin Moreno *Evins*Pete A. Calvert *Giddings*

Frederick B. Henderson *McLennan CSJCF*

Frederick B. Henderson *Ron Jackson*

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Daniel R. Siam *Evins*

Austin E. Brei *Gainesville*

Ginger M. Santos *McLennan RTC*

Pamela D. Whorton-Taylor *McLennan RTC*

Angelica A. Juarez Ron Jackson O&A

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Kenneth I. Ming *Austin-Business Ops
& Contracts*

Ronald N. Saunders *Gainesville*

Michael A. Banks *McLennan Phoenix*Clifton J. Clemons *Ron Jackson*

Joe B. Majors *Ron Jackson*

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Tracy A. Cunningham *Austin-Human
Resources*

Xiomara A. Navarro *McLennan CSJCF*

Susan C. Campbell *McLennan RTC*

Leander D. Tyree *Ron Jackson*Ernesto M. Garcia *Ron Jackson*

Angel M. Dieterich *Ron Jackson O&A*

Gaila J. Patrick *Willoughby HWH*

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Rhonda L. Roberson *Gainesville*

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Gloria Winkfield *Giddings*

Birdia C. Johnson *McFadden Ranch*

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Sylvia Perez *Austin-Fiscal Affairs
& Budget*

Olivia O. Gamez *Austin-Placement
Services*

Francisco Elizondo *OIG Field*

